GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2456
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2004
USE OF CELLULAR SERVICES BY FOREIGN NATIONALS
Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama;Shakya Shri Raghuraj Singh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the intelligence agency has unearthed evidence of foreign nationals using airtel cellular services in the country without furnishing local contact details and foreign identity proof to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b)The Intelligence Agency on September 30, 2004 brought to the notice of the Department of Telecommunications five cases where foreign nationals have obtained mobile telephone connections at Kolkata from M/s. Bharati Cellular Ltd. on the basis of foreign address/incomplete or vague local address.

(c) Immediately, on receipt of letter from the Intelligence Agency, the explanation of cellular mobile service provider, M/s. Bharti Cellular Limited was called. The service provider in his reply has stated that they have terminated the dealership of dealers who have failed to comply with the verification process for providing mobile phone to foreign nationals. The service provider have also stated that they have issued warning letter for strictly following the verification process and have also taken further steps to strengthen the verification process.

Further, on receipt of the letter from Intelligence Agency, the Department has issued letter no. 800-4/2002-VAS/135 dated 15th October`2004 to all cellular mobile service providers (including those migrated to UASL) reiterating the instructions regarding verification of identity of subscribers. In this letter it has been clearly stated that in case such instances of non-verification of identity of subscribers is noticed in future, it would be treated as breach of terms and conditions of license agreement and action would be taken accordingly.